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SUBJECT: MGLB01: LEBANON MONITORING GROUP SITUATION
REPORT NO. 8

Classified by: Dana C. Murray, Senior Watch Officer,
S/ES-O, Reason 1.4 (d)

HARIRI WELCOMES ARAB LEAGUE, BLAMES IRAN AND SYRIA

11. (SBU) Embassy Beirut reports Future Movement leader Hariri blamed Iran and Syria for bringing down the state of Lebanon, accusing them of mounting an "invasion" designed to restore their influence. Hariri rejected dialogue in the current security situation, reiterated his support for LAF Commander Sleiman as a consensus presidential candidate, and welcomed the Arab League Committee arriving May 14. (Ops/Embassy Beirut e-mail, NOWLebanon.com, aljazeera.net)

DRUZE LEADER JUMBLATT RECOMMENDS COMPROMISE

12. (C) Referring to May 11 Druze-Hizballah fighting in the Chouf Mountains MP Walid Jumblatt told Embassy Beirut that Hizballah wanted to conduct "ethnic cleansing." Jumblatt asked the USG to pressure PM Siniora to remain in office, as well as to reverse the decisions to oust the airport security chief and dismantle Hizballah's telecommunications network. (Beirut 677)

EMBASSY BEIRUT ADVISES AMCITS OF SUPPLY FLIGHTS

¶3. (SBU) Embassy Beirut issued a Warden Message advising AmCits the flights are to support Embassy operations and not to evacuate personnel. Post reports a steady stream of inquiries from AmCits seeking additional information. The Embassy reports commercial passenger ferries are operating between Beirut and Cyprus. Sporadic violence occasionally closes some Syrian border crossings, and the airport road remains blocked. (Ops/Embassy Beirut e-mail and telcon)

¶4. (U) Minimize considered.
RICE